

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JA, MARR
SUBJECT: DANIEL ELLSBERG STATES NUCLEAR WEAPONS STORED
- OFF IWAKUNI 1950S - 1960S

1. FOLLOWING ITEM DATELINED NEW YORK AUGUST 8, JUST
RECEIVED ON KYODO WIRE SERVICE:

"NEW YORK AUG 8 KYODO -- ANTI-BOMB CAMPAIGNER DANIEL ELLS-
BERG TOLD KYODO NEWS SERVICE TUESDAY THAT TACTICAL NUCLEAR
WEAPONS WERE STORED AT THE U.S. IWAKUNI MARINE BASE,
WESTERN JAPAN, FROM THE LATE 1950S TO THE 1960S.

"ELLSBERG SAID HE OBTAINED THE INFORMATION DURING HIS
INSPECTION TOUR OF AMERICAN MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE
PACIFIC FROM 1959-1960.

"HE SAID OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF STORING NUCLEAR WEAPONS
DIRECTLY GAVE HIM THE INFORMATION, ADDING THE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS WERE STORED IN A CARELESS MANNER.

"ELLSBERG SAID THE WEAPONS WERE STORED ON BOARD LANDING
SHIP TANKS (LST) ANCHORED ABOUT 100-300 METERS OFF THE
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BASE IN IWAKUNI IN YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE.

"HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF WEAPONS WERE KEPT
AT THE BASE BUT BELIEVED THEM TO BE 1.1-MEGATON-CLASS
HYDROGEN BOMBS OR SIMILAR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

"ELLSBERG WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE PENTAGON FROM RAND

CORPORATION TO WORK OUT A REPORT FOR THE PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER. HIS TRIP TO THE PACIFIC WAS PART OF HIS WORK TO COMPILE THE REPORT, HE SAID.

"HE SAID HE CALLED FOR A HEARING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS STORED OVERSEAS BUT HIS APPEAL WAS COLD-SHOULDERED BY CONGRESS.

"HE MADE THE DISCLOSURE IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH KYODO'S BUREAU IN NEW YORK FROM BOULDER, COLO., WHERE HE WAS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY.

"ELLSBERG SAID HE PLANS TO ORGANIZE A SIT-IN IN FRONT OF A PLUTONIUM MANUFACTURING FACTORY IN ROCKY FLAT NEAR BOULDER ON THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATOMIC BOMBING OF NAGASAKI WEDNESDAY."

2. KYODO HAS ALSO CARRIED MOFA DENIAL THAT U.S. FORCES STORED TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT IWAKUNI. MINISTRY OFFICIALS QUOTED AS SAYING THERE WAS NO DOUBT NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAD NOT BEEN BROUGHT INTO JAPAN UNDER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN JAPAN AND UNITED STATES AND THAT MAJOR CHANGES IN U.S. FORCES DEPLOYMENTS AND EQUIPMENT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONSULTATION IN WHICH GOJ WOULD REFUSE INTRODUCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES.

3. IF QUERIED WILL RESPOND ON THE BASIS OF STANDARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GUIDANCE. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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